

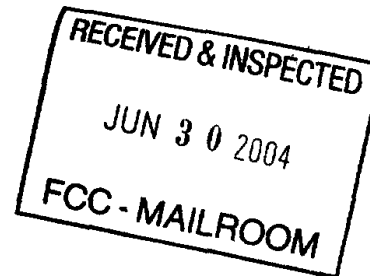


CLEAR CHANNEL

WORLDWIDE

6/16/2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20445



RE: MB Docket No. 04-160.

I would like to file my support and that of my fellow managers in my South Florida region for the NAB Petition seeking a Declaratory Ruling on Satellite radio's broadcasting local traffic and weather, along with their future plans to expand their reach into local radio.

- In granting licenses for satellite radio, the FCC relied on the express promises by XM Radio Inc. ("XM") and Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. ("Sirius") that their service would be national-only. They would provide multiple foreign language programming, senior citizens and children's programming, etc.
- Because satellite radio would be national, local broadcasters would not be harmed.
- Now XM and Sirius have blatantly broken their promises, launching "localized" traffic and weather service in the top twenty-one markets. *This is only the beginning.*
- It is clear from the comments they filed in opposition to the NAB Petition that XM and Sirius view the sky as the limit — with technology to continue to "localize" their services they can make their formats virtually indistinguishable from local radio.
- Without FCC intervention, two companies, with 120 channels each, will reach into every market and try to mimic what local broadcasters do.
- Here on the Treasure Coast of Florida, which includes Vero Beach, Ft. Pierce and Stuart Fl we provide in depth weather coverage through several sources including the Weather Channel and a comprehensive program called "Storm Net.. Our coverage is free to consumers, and is promoted heavily on our radio stations to thousands of listeners each week.



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● *Satellite Radio* doesn't have public interest limits or ownership limits. They have no *local* investment in their communities. They are like "Carpet Baggers" of old; come in to town take the money and leave, while offering no *real* local presence.

● The \$9.6 billion broadcasters gave to their local communities in 2003 speaks volumes to our commitment to public service.

● Our group of radio stations provide intense and dramatic services to the communities within our coverage. Our many charitable endeavors raise millions of dollars for programs who otherwise would go with less funding. We support local community drug rehabilitation programs, local fundraising for animal shelters, the daily food banks, etc. These programs and initiatives could be threatened by the expansion of satellite into our local markets to duplicate our efforts, and programs, that are now available for free.

● FCC, in authorizing satellite radio, vowed to protect "vibrant" local broadcasting, and promised to take "any necessary action to safeguard the important service that terrestrial radio provides." *That time is now.*

● Before XM and Sirius invest millions of dollars in technology, and further raise consumer's expectations about their ability to receive specific content, the FCC must clarify it authorized a national-only satellite radio service.

As a radio broadcaster with 30 years of experience, and service to local communities, I feel very confident that local radio provides coverage and provides excellent service. I support the NAB petition.

Sincerely,

Mark S Bass
Market Manager

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